10/089234

Attorney Docket: 225/51026
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Frank FRUENHAUF et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: Concurrently Herewith Examiner: Unknown

Title: VEHICLE AIR CONDITIONING DEVICE

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CHANGE THE DRAWINGS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants hereby respectfully request permission to change the drawing figures, Figure 1, as indicated in red shown on the attached sheet. These drawing changes do not add new matter to the application.

Respectfully submitted,

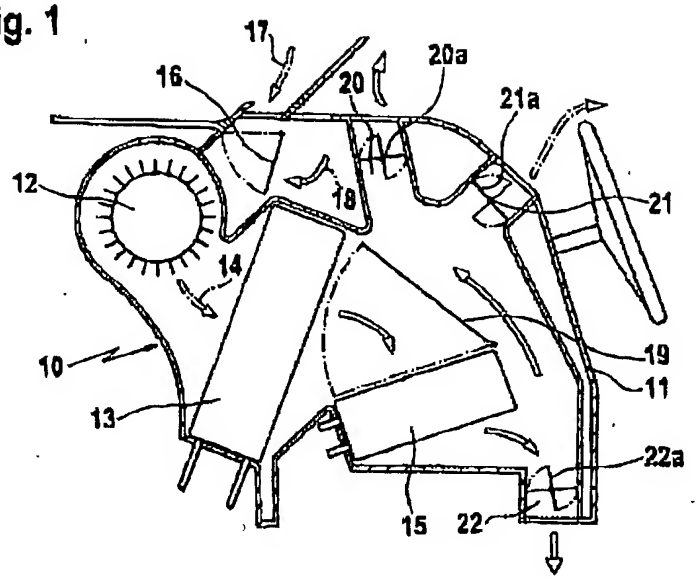
Date: March 28, 2002

Vincent J. Sunderdick
Registration No. 29,004

CROWELL & MORING, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-5116

VJS/leb

Fig. 1


17
16
20
20a
21a
12
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14
19
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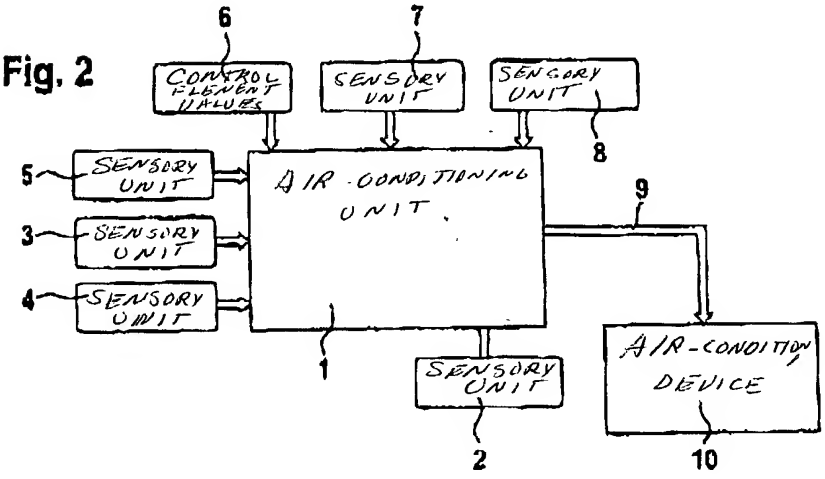
13
22a
15
22

Fig. 2


6
7
CONTROL ELEMENT VALUES
SENSORY UNIT
SENSORY UNIT
8
5
SENSORY UNIT
AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT
9
3
SENSORY UNIT
4
SENSORY UNIT
1
SENSORY UNIT
AIR-CONDITION DEVICE
2
10

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the specification, claims and abstract prior to the examination of the application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

A substitute specification and a marked-up copy thereof is attached herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 and add new claims 12-22 as follows:

--12. A vehicle air-conditioning device comprising:

at least one control element supplying a prescribed value to an air-conditioning control unit;

a fan including outlet nozzles and actuators wherein a state of air flow is determined by air speed and a degree of turbulence of the air based on the

output of said fan and wherein said state of air flow is further influenced by the distribution of air to said outlet nozzles, an outlet direction of the outlet nozzles and said actuators and wherein a thermal state of a vehicle is provided by the distribution of temperature and radiation effect in an interior of said vehicle; and wherein said at least one control element prescribes a determined state of flow and a determined thermal state for an occupant of said vehicle.

13. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 12, wherein said determined state of flow provides draught-sensitivity ranging from very draught-sensitive to not draught-sensitive.

14. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 12, comprising two control elements which prescribe the state of flow by draught-sensitivity and the thermal state by comfort temperature with at least one automatic mode being selected in accordance with both determined values of said two control elements.

15. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 12, wherein distribution of the air-conditioned air to said outlet nozzle and the air-conditioning outlet is set by the determined values of comfort temperature and draught-sensitivity.

16. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 12, further comprising multi-zone air-conditioning system separate control panels with one of said panels being provided for each of a respective zone of said multi-zone system.

17. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 12, further including a plurality of control panels provided for settings for different body regions of said occupant.

18. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 12, including a control panel having said at least one control element and a selection device for storing and selecting settings for the different body regions of said occupants.

19. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 12, further including a display means for displaying control characteristics of the device including the control characteristics of components of the air conditioning device, the air ducts, the interior and occupants.

20. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 12, wherein, in order to set a discharged direction with a manual adjustment of air-guiding plates of one of said discharge nozzles, adjustments of air-guiding plates of other ones of said discharge nozzles takes place in a connected manner.

21. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 12, wherein the determined values of the comfort temperature and draught-sensitivity prescribe manipulated variables for openings of said vehicle.

22. The vehicle air-conditioning device according to Claim 21, wherein the prescribed manipulated variable are a function of pre-conditioning of the vehicle at startup of the vehicle and the determined values of comfort temperature and draught-sensitivity.--

IN THE DRAWINGS:

A Request for Permission to Amend the Drawings is submitted herewith.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the new Abstract of the Disclosure submitted herewith on a separate page for the original Abstract presently in the application.

REMARKS

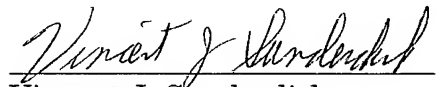
Entry of the amendments to the specification, claims and abstract before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Evenson, McKeown, Edwards & Lenahan, P.L.L.C., Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #225/51026).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 28, 2002



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VJS/leb

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A vehicle air-conditioning device having at least one control element which supplies a prescribed value to the air-conditioning control unit, a state of flow being provided by an air speed and a degree of turbulence of the air, which can be influenced by the strength of the fan, distribution of air to the discharge nozzles, the discharge direction to the discharge nozzles and further actuators which have an effect on the state of flow, and a thermal state is provided by the temperature distribution and effect of radiation in the vehicle interior. Provision is made for the at least one control panel to be used to prescribed a state of flow desirable for the occupant and a thermal state.